

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 27-29, 34-38, 43-45, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80-82, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-98, 104, 105, 108-110, 113-115, 117, 118, 129, 136-140 are pending in the application, with claims 27, 34-36, 43, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-96, 104, 105, 108, 113-115, 117, 118, 129 and 136 being the independent claims.

Claims 1-26, 30-33, 39-42, 46, 47, 51, 53, 56, 58, 59, 61, 68-71, 75, 78, 79, 83-86, 89, 92, 93, 99-103, 106, 107, 111, 112, 116, 119-128 and 130-135 were previously cancelled. Claims 27, 34-36, 43, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-96, 104, 105, 108, 113-115, 117, 118 and 129 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks (and on the Amendment and Reply previously filed on November 22, 2004), Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Claim Amendments***

Per a telephone conversation with the Examiner on January 11, 2005, the Examiner requested that Applicants amend several of the pending claims to clarify the subject matter recited therein. In response to this request, Applicants have presently

amended claims 27, 34-36, 43, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-96, 104, 105, 108, 113-115, 117, 118 and 129. These amendments have not been made to overcome a prior art rejection and are not intended to narrow the scope of the claims.

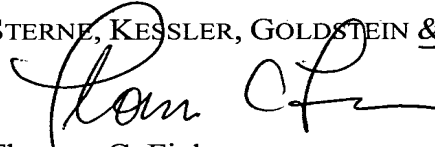
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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